

### CARE IN REPORTING DISEASES THAT MIGHT MENACE HEALTH OF TROOPS URGED UPON DOCTORS.

The Public Health Service, Treasury Department, has sent the following letter to local health officers:

It is important for the protection of the health of the troops in camps that every community, no matter how small, report the presence of all communicable diseases, especially if present in epidemic proportions. Selected and enlisted men in traveling may be exposed to such diseases and carry them into camp.

It is obvious that disease reporting depends primarily upon the doctors, but local health authorities should realize that the grave responsibility rests upon them of obtaining reports of all notifiable diseases from the doctors in their jurisdictions. In addition to rendering more complete reports under present regulations for reporting disease, it is highly desirable that physicians report immediately those cases where a selected or enlisted man has been so exposed to a communicable disease as to be a menace to any camp or post in the United States.

#### Plan of Action Suggested.

For this purpose the following plan of action is suggested by the United States Public Health Service after a conference with Army sanitary authorities:

1. The physician should make an immediate report to the local health authorities, who should notify (by telephone or telegraph if necessary) the senior medical officer of the camp or post to which the selected man or soldier may become a menace. A duplicate notification should be made by the local authorities to the State health authorities.

2. If there be no local health authority having jurisdiction, the physician should notify (by telephone or telegraph if necessary) the State health officer, who should notify (by telephone or telegraph if necessary) the senior medical officer of the camp or post to which the selected man or soldier is about to go.

3. The notification should be explicit, giving name of selected man or soldier and other identification data, together with his address and the nature of the disease.

4. The notification of the senior medical officer of the camp or post by the local or State health authorities should be in addition to the present procedure in such cases.

As a result of the studies at the front, methods have been developed whereby more than 80 per cent. of the wounded, who originally remained at the military hospitals for months, are now cured and returned to the forces in three or four weeks. In order that Army surgeons stationed at camps, cantonments, and other military hospitals in this country may thoroughly understand the latest treatment of war wounds, the Army Medical Department has had established special classes of instruction to which are sent selected officers who, upon completion of their courses, return to their own hospitals and instruct other surgeons in these methods.

The earliest possible information of changes of treatment are sent to the Surgeon General's Office from the American Expeditionary Forces, and these in turn are immediately transmitted through the classes and, by means of moving pictures, lantern slides, and pamphlets, to every surgeon

who will come in contact with these wounds either at home or at the front.

Since last October more than 150 officers have received special instruction each month in classes which have been established at the War Demonstration Hospital, Rockefeller Institute; four classes at Bellevue Hospital, New York; Roosevelt Hospital, New York; University of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia; Rochester, Minn.; Pittsburgh, Chicago, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

All surgeons who will come into contact with war wounds have received instruction in the methods of administering the Carrel-Dakin treatment, and sufficient apparatus has been furnished to treat every patient in the service who may require this method. A large supply of apparatus has been sent to Europe so that there are now more than 50 sets available for every injured man who, up to the present time, has needed this treatment, and over 3,000 sets are being shipped every month to care for the added number of wounded in which this application may be necessary.

### GUARDING CAMPS FROM FLIES AND MOSQUITOES.

To guard troops stationed in camps and cantonments from disease carried by mosquitoes and flies, the medical department of the Army has installed a system of prevention which is safeguarding not only the soldiers but also civilians living in the neighborhood of training camps.

There is attached to each camp a division surgeon who is responsible for the health of the camp. Assisting him is a sanitary inspector who has the assistance of a sanitary engineer and from 100 to 200 enlisted men who are continually employed in work designed to protect the health of the soldiers.

Special attention is now being given in all camps to cleaning up spots where mosquitoes and flies breed. In some cases it has been necessary to dig channels in streams, drain swamps, and put in elaborate ditching systems in order to clean up stagnant pools and streams. In those cases where it has been found impossible or impracticable to drain swamps and to do other work of a similar nature, there has been installed a system for keeping these slow-moving streams and still bodies of water covered with oil. At all points within the camp where there is the slightest possibility of mosquitoes or flies breeding, daily spraying of oil is done.

Arrangements have been completed with the Federal Public Health Service to carry out a similar program in the territories adjacent to the camps. The Health Service has agreed to fill bogs, open streams, and drain swamps and continue the oil spraying for a distance of one mile around all camps.

Special precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of disease by flies. With the approach of the fly season a general order was sent to all division surgeons and other health officers to take all necessary steps to prevent the breeding of flies. Instructions were given on the disposal of materials that were likely to become breeding spots. Arrangements were made to protect all food from flies. With this end in view all buildings in which food is prepared or stored were screened. The entrance to the buildings have been vestibuled. An added guard is the placing of flytraps in all buildings. An average of 6,000 such traps have been placed in each camp. More than 22,700,000 square feet of screening has been placed in all camps.